

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 7-22 and 27-29 are amended. Claim 23 is canceled. Claims 1-22 and 24-30 are pending.

I. RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Claim 23 is canceled herein in view of the restriction requirement and subsequent election.

II. RELATED CASE NOTIFICATION

The Examiner is alerted that related subject matter is presented in two other cases of the same assignee that are now pending in the Office. First, the Examiner is presently assigned to Reexamination Control No. 90/007,268, relating to an issued patent of the same assignee relating to similar technology. Second, another Examiner is assigned to the application of Pettitt, Ser. No. 09/442,106, which also addresses similar technology. On January 28, 2005 the Board of Patent Appeals & Interferences issued a decision on appeal, Paper No. 25, which reversed the other Examiner, who now receives renewed jurisdiction of the case.

III. SPECIFICATION

The Office Action objected to the Abstract as too long. The Abstract is amended herein to less than 150 words in length, solely to conform to Office length requirements and not to change the scope of any aspect of the application. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

IV. CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Applicants appreciate the reconsideration and withdrawal of certain rejections. The Office Action objected to claims 1-22 and 27-29 as directed to two statutory classes. The claims are rewritten herein to recite method subject matter by removing reference to apparatus.

Applicants believe that the objection is fully addressed. If there are remaining issues in the form

of the claims, for efficiency both for the Office and the Applicants, the Applicants' representative would welcome the opportunity to seek resolution by telephone.

V. CONCLUSION


For the reasons set forth above, all pending claims are patentable over the art of record, including the art cited but not applied. Accordingly, allowance of all claims is respectfully requested.

No fee or extension fee is believed to be due. However, to the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee that may be due in relation to this application to our Deposit Account No. 50-1302.

Respectfully submitted,

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